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September 19, 1967

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Baptists Preach In South Africa Crusade 'Unofficially'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)--Thirty Southern Baptist ministers and two Southern Baptist Convention foreign missionaries were in South Africa during the month of September to participate in an evangelistic crusade.

The evangelistic effort took the place of a larger crusade which would have been organized by the SBC Home Mission Board, but was canceled when the board learned that white and Negro evangelists could not travel together.

After the cancellation, a number of the ministers who had volunteered for the crusade still wanted to go on an individual basis, provided invitations were extended by the South African churches.

A total of 53 churches in South Africa, compared to the 100 churches which had planned to participate in the earlier evangelistic crusade, responded, most of them scheduling a one-week revival.

Bob N. Ramsey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Brookhaven, Miss., was the leader of the American team of preachers.

When the American ministers arrived after the 9,000 mile trip, they were greeted by about 150 Baptists from churches throughout South Africa.

Upon arrival, the general secretary of the South African Baptist Union, Charles Parnell, said there was almost an immediate sense of "one-ness in Christ" between the South African Baptists and the team from the United States.

Ten of the evangelists were from Mississippi, three from Florida and Texas, two each from California, Arkansas, Colorado, and Louisiana; and one each from New York, Georgia, Illinois, Alabama, Oklahoma, and the Canal Zone.

According to Ramsey, the American team leader, the expenses of the men were paid by their churches or others, and they went at no cost either to the Southern Baptist Convention or South African Baptists.

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NOTE to Baptist State Paper Editors: Names of the 30 participants are being sent to the editors of states from whence they come.

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Executive Committee Unveils Painting of Chief Executive

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A painting of the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Porter W. Routh, was unveiled here during the executive committee's semi-annual meeting.

The presentation was made by R. Archie Ellis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C., and an Executive Committee member and sub-committee chairman for nine years.

During the presentation, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the church where Routh is a member paid tribute to the denomination's chief executive as a deacon and a man of Christian character.

H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, called Routh a "faithful, consistent deacon" whose main characteristic is that he is fixed in the faith, fair with people, and firm in his convictions and decisions.

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Paschall also told of Routh's background, saying that you cannot really understand who the man is without looking at what has molded the man. "We can appreciate the stature of the man when we look at the home from which he comes," Paschall said.

Routh is the son of the late E. C. Routh, who for many years was editor of the Baptist Standard, publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Before becoming executive secretary of the Executive Committee, he was head of the department of survey, statistics and information for the SBC Sunday School Board, and was the elected senior secretary of the convention.

Previously, he was editor of the Baptist Messenger, the Baptist state paper Oklahoma; staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and a journalism instructor and publicity director from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, where he graduated.

He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; and the University of Missouri and George Peabody College in Nashville.

The portrait of Routh, painted by Martin Kellogg of Nashville and New York, was unveiled by Mrs. Routh, and by Ellis.

It will hang in the parlor of the SBC building here along with the portraits of two previous executive secretaries of the Executive Committee, Duke K. McCall of Louisville, now president of Southern Seminary; and the late Austin Crouch.

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BP PHOTO to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Benefits, Rates In SBC Health Plan To Be Increased, Jan. 1 790

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DALLAS (BP)--Rising costs in hospital and medical care in recent months have caused an inevitable upward adjustment in premiums of the Health Benefit Plan offered by the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board here.

But with the increase, effective on Jan. 1, 1968, will also come a welcome addition--more allowance for room rates, according to an Annuity Board official.

Baynard F. Fox, director of the life and health department of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, said he regretted having to announce a premium increase, but from the member's standpoint an increase would be better than cutting any benefits.

He said the Health Benefit Plan is designed to keep up automatically with rising costs of hospital and medical care. Necessary hospital services, which usually constitute up to 70 per cent of the hospital bill, are covered in full in the Blue Cross part.

In like manner, the Major Medical part also keeps pace with rising costs of other medical expenses at home and in the doctor's office, he said.

"These increases in cost necessitate the increase in premiums," Fox said.

"Unless a plan is adjusted upward to meet the ever increasing costs in hospital and medical care, it would soon leave more of the bill for a member to pay," he added.

Fox said the new monthly premium rates which become effective on Jan. 1, are: \$8.50 for one person; \$21.25 for two persons (couple or parent and child); \$23.50 for a family (parents and all children under age 19); and \$5.50 for each sponsored dependent (single and under age 25).

Fox said on Jan. 1, also the new room allowance will go into effect. The plan will then pay \$15 a day under the basic Blue Cross part and up to \$30 a day maximum in the Major Medical part of the plan.

He said by increasing the room allowance, the entire range of services now are brought in line with the continuous increase in costs of hospital and medical care.

Applications are being accepted during the fall semi-annual enrollment period which closes Nov. 30, for coverage to begin on Jan. 1, Fox stated.

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The Health Benefit Plan is a convention-wide plan providing hospitalization-surgical-major medical benefits. It is open to all salaried ministers, church and agency employees, except hospital personnel.

Cost to the member is the same, regardless of where he serves.

"Protection may be continued after retirement at no increase in cost," Fox concluded.

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North Carolina Baptist
Leader, Zeno Wall, Dies

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SHELBY, N.C. (BP)--Funeral services were held for Zeno Wall, 85, prominent North Carolina Baptist leader who formerly was head of a North Carolina Baptist college and superintendent of the convention's children's homes.

Wall, 85, died of cancer. Services were held at the First Baptist Church here where he was pastor for almost 25 years.

He was a former president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, president of what is now Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C.; and superintendent of the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes.

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